

WILMINGTON, N. C., MONDAY, AUGUST 24, 1887.

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE.

About 2 o'clock this morning, a fire broke out in a warehouse in the rear of a block of two-story frame stores, on Water Street, mid-way between Princess and Chestnut Streets, occupied by Messrs. Evan Bevan, A. Kaufman, J. & H. Samson, and Walker & Stevenson.

In a short time the buildings, owned by O. G. Parsley, Esq., and Mrs. Noyes, were consumed, and the fire crossed over Water Street to some one-story frames owned by Mr. Parsley, and occupied by Messrs. Bauman & Groffen, J. & H. Sampson, and by Russell & Bro.

These buildings with their contents were pretty soon in flames and destroyed.

The fire spread North to a block of brick buildings owned by Mr. Parsley, and occupied by Messrs. Alderman & Bizzell, J. & D. McRae & Co., Russell & Bro., and Captain Owen Burns.

The store occupied by Captain Burns was completely destroyed—that occupied by Russell & Bro., somewhat injured, and Messrs. J. & D. McRae & Co., and Alderman & Bizzell, suffered more or less from water, from the taking out of their goods, etc.

On the South, the brick store occupied by Messrs. McDuffie & Co., and J. J. Lippitt, was considerably scorched, and some loss from tumbling things in and out. The store belongs, we believe, to F. J. Lord, Esq. The wharves are considerably injured, perhaps to the amount of two to three thousand dollars, or even more than the largest of these sums.

We can hardly make any accurate or even proximate estimate of the value of the naval stores and other produce on the wharves, which were destroyed. Four to five thousand dollars is about as good a guess as we can make. Daniel L. Russell, Esq., is the heaviest loser in this way.

The Rock Spring Hotel on Chestnut Street, between Front and Water Streets, owned by Mr. Parsley and occupied by Mr. Alderman, although in great danger, escaped with a sharp scorching. A frame kitchen attached to it was totally destroyed.

Commencing at the Northern limit of the fire, we place Messrs. Russell & Bro.'s loss at about \$3,000, covered by insurance. Captain Owen Burns, \$2,500 to \$3,000, also covered by insurance; Mr. Bevan, \$1,200, no insurance; Mr. Kaufman, we believe, places his loss at about \$2,000—insured; Messrs. J. & H. Samson had a heavy stock of goods, but the amount of loss cannot now be reached—insured. In the store occupied by Messrs. Stevenson & Walker, Mr. W. T. Huggins had hay and some other articles, which were lost to the value of something like \$500. Messrs. Bauman & Groffen's loss will be about \$5,000 and \$6,000, of which \$3,500 is covered by insurance.

All the buildings burned or seriously injured, belonged to O. G. Parsley, Esq., and Mrs. Noyes. Mr. Parsley is the heaviest loser. The buildings themselves were not, intrinsically, of much value, but as it is not allowed to put up wooden buildings in that part of town, the cost of replacing them with brick edifices will be quite heavy. We believe Mr. Parsley had no insurance.

Of course, considerable loss by water, abuse, breakage, and, we fear, stealage, was sustained by other parties, whose premises were not actually reached by the fire.

There seems to be every reason for believing that the fire was the work of an incendiary. But, as we understand the authorities have instituted, or are about to institute an investigation, we forbear remark for the present.

The Proposed Town Subscription to the Deep River.

This matter is before our citizens, and must be acted upon, and acted upon calmly and considerably, after due reflection. Let each man, without reference to party feelings, former opinions or predilections, place the thing before himself as it stands, weigh it in all its bearings, and act as his best judgment may dictate.

This thing of going deeper in debt is a serious matter. The town is pressed with taxation. Its people are pressed. This much we all know.

Few doubt but that the opening of the Coal Mines to market would give an impetus to trade, infuse life into our town, benefit our property and render the burden of our liabilities easier to bear.

The Deep River Navigation has been a most unfortunate work. The period of its completion, like to-morrow, has always been one day in the future. It has never appeared to grow nearer, but on the contrary, has rather seemed to recede. That, after so many disappointments, our people should have lost confidence in it, or at least should have had their confidence very much shaken, is perfectly natural, and what was to have been expected.

We believe that the men in charge of the work are business men, who will do all that men can reasonably be expected to do. We believe that they have the best interests of the Company at heart—they have the experience of past misfortunes, to enable them to steer clear of the rocks upon which their predecessors have split. But they have much to do, and little means to do it with. They think they can put the town in boating order to the centre of the Coal Fields, if the Town will make this subscription. They can see no other way to get along—they see no plan to do without it.

After the experience of the Company for years, we cannot be bold enough to say that all the plans and calculations of the Directors will certainly succeed even with the town subscription. They may succeed with that subscription. They cannot succeed without it. Its success even temporarily, so as to place the Coal fairly in the market, and demonstrate the practicability of the navigation, beyond doubt, would be, of course, an achievement of value far more than commensurate with the subscription of twenty-five thousand dollars.

We do not say that this effort will succeed. We trust it may—that is all. The question simply is this: Are our people willing to run the risk? That is for them to decide at the polls.

There is abundant time to think over it, and we trust our citizens will think over it carefully. It presents on one side a great contingent advantage—on the other a certain additional burden of twenty-five thousand dollars. For our own part, were there any other resource for getting along at all with the work, we would unhesitatingly say No, to any proposition for incurring one additional cent of debt, or necessitating one additional cent of taxation. But really it appears to us that without this the thing must go down, and therefore we feel compelled to pause, and, at least withhold any opposition, while we must confess that we are not yet prepared to give to the cause of subscription any active support. We only want to draw public attention to the matter. To ask every voter to think over the matter, and compare notes with his neighbors, before making up his mind.

Of course the vote of the citizens, if affirmative, will only be permissive in its character, and the commissioners need not, and, we suppose, will not make the subscription, unless they feel a reasonable assurance that the ends proposed can really be accomplished.

It will be seen that an election is to be held to decide on the question of a subscription by the town of a sum not exceeding twenty-five thousand dollars to the capital stock of the Cape Fear and Deep River Navigation Company. We presume that the Directors will shortly submit a statement of the situation and proposed plan of the Company looking towards the completion of its work. This will be necessary to enable our citizens to act understandingly. We give below all the information in our possession. We believe it will be found nearly accurate. At least it has been our desire to make it so and to place it fairly and impartially before the public.

This election is to be held on the 21st day of September. We have every confidence in the present officers of the Company. We believe that they will do all that can be done, under the circumstances. That these last are discouraging, we need not say. The whole matter has been talked over and discussed until our people are tired of it.

The present state of the case is, we believe, as follows: It is no use fooling longer with the various Northern Companies of Contractors. They flash in the pan, and do nothing. To drop the work now is tantamount to an abandonment of it. What is to be done, is the question. Thus then, the Directors come to this—they have means of one kind or another, from sales of negroes, etc., to put the work in boating order to the mouth of Deep River themselves. Reliable parties, possessed of adequate means, will take the contract from the mouth of Deep River to the centre of the Coal Fields for \$50,000; of this \$30,000 to be paid in cash—the balance in preferred stock. Of the \$30,000 cash, different parties interested in the lands on Deep River will take a part—perhaps \$20,000; perhaps \$15,000; perhaps only \$10,000. The town subscription will be required to fill up any deficiency. It may not all be required or it may. The Town is to receive preferred stock at 12 per cent.

Now, if the work succeeds, it will, in every sense, be money well invested. If it doesn't, it may be so much gone. At any rate, it is the only hope for the work that the Directors can now see—the only chance to prevent its abandonment.

These we believe are the facts. They are for the voters to think over and act upon. We do not usually shrink from responsibility in such cases, but now, we must confess that we know hardly what to say. It is of vital importance to the work, but our people are depressed. It may help to relieve that depression—that is to be hoped for—it may fail—that risk will have to be run, if the subscription be made.

Mr. Stanley's Duplicity.

Mr. Stanley endeavors to make the impression in his letter of acceptance that he held while here the same opinions on slavery which he now proclaims in California. Can it be true that he was a black Republican at heart while in the service of the people of North Carolina. Such is the inference from his letter, and such is the impression which he seeks to make on the people of California.

Mr. Stanley also denounces the repeal of the Missouri relation as an "enormous outrage." He held no such opinion while in this city on his last and quite recent visit; or if he did, he studiously concealed it. If we are not mistaken, he was invited while here, during the last session of our State Legislature, to partake of a public dinner, to be given him by gentlemen of all parties as a mark of esteem for him as a citizen of North Carolina, and we are sure that no such respect would have been shown him if it had been known that he held black Republican opinions had been "formed" before he went to California.

Mr. Stanley gives striking evidence of the gratitude which he cherishes for his old constituents of the Washington District, by his statement that he held the same opinions on slavery while he was their representative that he holds now. We would have the world believe that they endorsed and sustained an anti-slavery man and an embryo abolitionist; whereas, there is no portion of the State where slavery is more profitable, or where it is more vitally connected with the existence of society, than it is in the Washington District.—*Relief Standard.*

We think the Standard is partly right and partly wrong about Mr. Stanley's position while in North Carolina. It is true that he did not vote the same opinions in the same language, but his votes in Congress, and his speeches there and upon the stump, indicated that Mr. Stanley favored abolition sentiments and measures, as charged upon him at the time by the democrats of his district. This charge his friends bitterly repelled; now, Mr. Stanley comes forward and says, in effect: "The democrats of my district who charged free-soilism upon me were right—they understood me and would none of me. My own partisans might have understood me well enough, too, if they had not permitted their hatred to democracy to blind them even to their own best interests." If he duped them, they met him half way. They would be dupes.

One of the proprietors of this paper has a right to know something of Mr. Stanley's course for long years back. The position assumed by Mr. Stanley in California has not surprised him. It was only what he expected—the avowal, under other and more favorable circumstances of opinions long entertained and acted on, though not openly paraded, to the same extent as now.

What Mr. Stanley proposes to himself as the goal of his ambition, we are hardly prepared to say. Perhaps he thinks in this way: "If I can get elected here in California, I may have a good chance for the Black Republican nomination for President. I have got a heap more sense, and better manners than Fremont, who is out of the race at any rate. What's to hinder?"

It is said that the natives of India, Mohammedans and Hindoos alike, have a prophecy among them that the British Rule is to cease and the Native Rule be established on the one hundredth anniversary of the battle of Plassey, which battle was fought by Clive in 1757, and laid the foundation of the present British authority there.

The atrocities committed by the natives upon all Christians, are said to be of the most horrible character—simple murder being the least of their brutalities. It is remarkable, that where the regiments have mutinied, they have always murdered their officers, and that not one single instance has occurred of even one native soldier having given any warning, or done any act to save the life of any European officer.

The exasperation of the British troops amounts to madness, and it is with great difficulty that the soldiers can be restrained from laying violent hands on every native they meet.

YE STRIPPED PIGEON.—Scene—Temperance town in Tennessee; no license to sell liquor by retail, with or without strychnine. Enter traveler, tired and thirsty. Enquires for a drink—finds place—imbibes—demands to know "the damage." "Nothing," says the polite mixer of toddlers, "but," says that urbane personage, "we sell very fine tobacco at ten cents a plug," handing plug about the size of a little baby's nose. Traveler pays ten cents, and forgets the little cube, thinking ten cents cheap enough for a drink and a full view of the porcine animal of diversified colors. True bill. Incident of Knoxville Convention.

THE Cheraw, S. C., Gazette states that the North Eastern Railroad, running from Charleston to the point where the Cheraw and Darlington Road strikes the Wilmington and Manchester line, will be finished in a few weeks. The Cheraw and Coal-field Road is quite another thing, and will not soon be built, if ever.

It is also proposed to erect residences for the several cabinet officers. This, too, should be done. No newly appointed member of the cabinet ought to be compelled to run around Washington on hunt of a house. As it is, cabinet officers are constantly changing their residences, and nobody knows where to find them. If suitable houses were erected, every gentleman who accepted a cabinet office would be sure of having a roof over his family's head when he entered upon the discharge of his duties.

Valley Spirit, August 12.

Friends are in the habit of warmly greeting their acquaintances upon the arrival of passenger trains at station houses. Recently, a young gentleman rushed through the crowd towards a lady, seized her hand, and gave her a hearty kiss, the smack of which sounded above—we were going to say the din of a house. As it is, cabinet officers are constantly changing their residences, and nobody knows where to find them. If suitable houses were erected, every gentleman who accepted a cabinet office would be sure of having a roof over his family's head when he entered upon the discharge of his duties.

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Horrible Scenes in India.

Peshawar is an Afghan City of some fifty thousands inhabitants, conquered by the Sikhs under Ranjeet Singh, and subsequently annexed with the balance of the Sikh territory to the British dominions in India. It is a fortified city and was garrisoned by two thousand Europeans and seven native regiments. It was discovered that on the 22nd May, the natives intended to rise upon and massacre all the Europeans. By rapid movements and great energy, the Europeans succeeded in dispersing the natives even to the smallest pocket knife, and not only that, but prevented a single one of them leaving, covering their unarmed lines with artillery loaded and pointed at them. All who attempted to escape, were hung as fast as captured. One of the forts was held by the 55th regiment of native infantry in open revolt. In the capture of it by the Europeans one hundred and fifty of the Sepoy were slain. Nine of the prisoners taken, were instantly shot. Those who escaped to the hills were murdered by the hillmen for the reward offered for their heads. But the most horrible scene of all was enacted after the trial of some of the mutineers, who were found guilty and sentenced to be blown from the mouths of cannon. Three sides of a square were formed, ten guinea pointed outward, the sentence of the Court was read, a prisoner was bound to each gun, the signal given, and the salvo fired. Human trunks, heads, legs, arms, etc., flying in all directions. Four times was this repeated in presence of the whole force and population. Trials are still going on, and executions will continue. And so throughout India. The fierce cruelties of a vindictive population will find its retribution at the point of the bayonet or the muzzle of the cannon, and even the bloody campaign of Sebastopol bear no comparison in carnage to the plains and mountains of India. Whether Delhi has really been taken with a loss of 30,000 native lives, is comparatively immaterial. It will be taken, and a terrible vengeance will follow.

A correspondent of the New York Times writing from on board the United States flag ship San Jacinto, now at Hong Kong, says that Capt. Simms of the Marine Corps of that ship, had, in pursuance of instructions, proceeded to the city of Fuzhou, on the island of Formosa, and there hoisted the American flag, and taken formal possession of the island, to be held until indemnity be given to American citizens for their losses in the present war.

Formosa is an island lying some ninety to one hundred miles east of the coast of China, to which it mainly belongs. It contains fifteen thousand square miles of territory, and rather over two millions of people; most of the population is Chinese, and the best part of the land belongs to these people. Formosa has been the receptacle of a good many Chinese convicts, who have not added to its character for honesty.

The island is intersected throughout its length by a lofty range of mountains, said to rise in some places to 12,000 feet, presenting cool and healthful retreats from the tropical heats of the Summer. It contains valuable Coal mines, a great desideratum for a commercial people.

We have no idea that this country has any idea of making permanent acquisitions of territory on the coast of China. If it should, Formosa would be perhaps the most desirable position that could be selected, only that, so far as known, its harbors are inferior. Its southern point is about eighty miles north, and one hundred east of Canton.

THE ATLANTIC TELEGRAPH.—The fleet of Steamships carrying and depositing the Atlantic telegraph wire, was to have left Valencia Bay, Ireland, on the 3d inst., being the anniversary of the sailing of Columbus. It must have made a fine show, consisting of five magnificent War Steamers, lead off by the Niagara, the largest vessel afloat, followed by the Agamemnon, British Steamship of the line, the American Steam Frigate Susquehanna, the British Steam Frigate Cyclops, and another British Steamer, the Leopard.

If no accident has happened, they ought to be at St. John's, New Foundland, by this time. They did not have more than fifteen hundred miles to pay out—at least they did not have that much distance to traverse—but of course, circumstances might require a much greater amount of cable, which is prepared and on board.

If successful, it will be an achievement. Even if it fails on the first trial, it will not be abandoned.

The laying of the Atlantic Telegraph was formally commenced on the 3d inst., the anniversary of the day on which Columbus set sail from Palos, Spain, on his first adventurous voyage across the Atlantic. The fleet really sailed, however, on the 5th and calculated to get through in 20 days, which would bring them to Newfoundland on the 25th, Tuesday. From St. John's Newfoundland, to New York there is already a line laid so that we may expect to hear from the enterprise in two or three days.

Stewart, Democrat, has certainly been chosen Governor of Missouri. This is a triumph over every possible influence combined to defeat him.

A NEW HOUSE FOR THE PRESIDENT.—The propriety of erecting a new Presidential Mansion is being discussed by some of our contemporaries. The location of the present mansion is unhealthy. The river and low grounds in the vicinity are fruitful of chills and fever. Few occupants of the White House have escaped sickness in the summer. Mr. Buchanan has repeatedly retired to the country for the season, coming into the city every day for the transaction of business. It is suggested that the present building might be used as the official residence of the President—the place where foreign ministers, government officials, and all having business with the Executive should see him—while a private residence for him should be erected in a healthy and retired place, somewhere in the immediate neighborhood of Washington. As it is, the President's plan, and so, we think, will everybody who understands the matter.

It is also proposed to erect residences for the several cabinet officers. This, too, should be done. No newly appointed member of the cabinet ought to be compelled to run around Washington on hunt of a house. As it is, cabinet officers are constantly changing their residences, and nobody knows where to find them. If suitable houses were erected, every gentleman who accepted a cabinet office would be sure of having a roof over his family's head when he entered upon the discharge of his duties.

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Execution of a Murderer.

HOLLIDAYSBURG, Aug. 21.—McKim, the murderer of Norcross, was executed here to-day, at 20 minutes of 1 o'clock. He died protesting his innocence. He attempted to commit suicide this morning. He spoke nearly two hours from the scaffold.

New York, Aug. 22.—Last night a well-known lawyer of this city, named Wagstaff, was shot dead in a saloon on Broadway, by an actor named Hime, attached to Burton's theatre.

St. Louis, Aug. 21.—A letter to the Republican, dated Fort Kearney, 7th inst., says that the fifth and Tenth Regiments of Infantry and Captains Phelps' Battery have arrived there. Captain Van Vleet had gone ahead in advance on important business. The troops were much dissatisfied and the Fifth and Tenth Regiments had lost nearly 500 men by desertion.

Chicago, Aug. 22.—A terrible hurricane passed over the town of Woodland, in Wisconsin, yesterday, destroying every house in the place. The telegraph lines were prostrated and the railway track much damaged.

The Weather—Atlantic Telegraph. St. Johns, Aug. 22.—The weather is pleasant, with pleasant westerly winds. The telegraph fleet are confidently expected to arrive as early as Tuesday.

Meeting of North Carolinians.

Pursuant to a previous notice, a meeting of native citizens of North Carolina, resident and transient, now in the city, was held on Thursday evening last. On motion Dr. H. J. Powell, Hon. Jacob Thompson was called upon to preside.

Mr. Thompson, on taking the chair, made the following remarks: That he felt complimented in being assigned to preside over this meeting, assembled to do appropriate honor to the memory of Mr. Dobbin; for, although he knew of him but slightly, he had heard of him in another State. Yet, wherever he might reside or in whatever portion of the world his lot might be cast, he would never forget the land of his birth, the home of his childhood, and his "heart untravelled" fondly turned to the good old State; and, although he might be a wandering stranger, yet he felt that he was still a citizen of the State, and that he felt towards her the affection and veneration of a son for a beloved mother. One hundred and fifty years ago his ancestors settled in North Carolina; her soil now holds their honored remains; the relatives of his blood and friends of his youth are still there. He, therefore, felt that he had some claim to unite with North Carolinians in honoring the memory of one of their distinguished and brave sons. He felt, too, that this meeting was laudable in its objects. In "these pure times" gratitude was more a sentiment for favor to be received than for kindness done. No motives but pure and noble could have instituted the present meeting. Mr. Thompson stated that he knew well, early and long, the late James C. Dobbin; he knew him as a man of noble and noble qualities. We learned to conjugate ago together, and realized in life the truth of his affectionate meaning. Together we toiled the classic halls of Chapel Hill, where we separated, prepared for the great battle of life. When we again met it was in the 29th Congress, (1845,) and of that distinguished body no one bore himself more acceptably to his associates, more faithfully to his duties, more devoted to his country than Mr. Dobbin. When I next saw him (said Mr. Thompson) he filled the high position of Secretary of the Navy.

I declare, with the utmost sincerity, that in all the relations of life, in every condition or position, I never met any man in any country, of any party, who possessed a clearer and purer heart than James C. Dobbin. But he has gone! Hardly had he reached the meridian of life—in the fullness of his fame and usefulness he is taken from us. We deplore his loss, admire his virtues, and let us imitate his example. On so mournful an event, when death by one stroke makes such a devastation of talent, acquirements and virtue, although we submit to the blow, we are dumb; we are dumb, we are dumb, we are dumb; the utter vanity and folly of all earthly pursuits! What shadows we are, and what shadows we pursue!

The death of Mr. Dobbin (added Mr. Thompson) fell at the time with peculiar sorrow on his heart. He learned at the same time, in the same State, of the death of his father, the late John H. Dobbin, an aged father. Together his parent and his friend commenced their journey to "that undiscovered country" where the weary are at rest and all sorrows cease.

On motion of J. B. Holderby, Wm. J. Cowan was appointed Secretary.

On motion of Hon. John H. Wheeler, a committee of three was appointed to draft resolutions expressive of the views of this meeting.

Messrs. Wheeler, McCullum, and Cooke were appointed.

Mr. Wheeler supported the following resolutions, which were reported by the committee, by some hastily adopted and adopted. The resolutions were unanimously adopted by the meeting.

Resolved, That the sons and citizens of North Carolina, resident and transient, now in Washington, have learned with sincere sorrow the news of the death of their friend and fellow-citizen, James C. Dobbin—an event which truly

And caused the whole nation to be contracted in one brow of woe.

We feel that, while we mourn the loss of a sincere friend, the Republic has lost one of its purest patriots. In all the relations of life where shall we find his superior? As a friend he was faithful and just; as a statesman he was pure and patriotic, able and eloquent; as a politician he was tolerant, and without guile